gate marks obtained by a candidate in the objective tests and the interview.

(7) To the extent possible the written examinations are being conducted by the BSRBs on common dates.

(8) The examination fee for recruitment to officers cadres has been raised from Rs. 40/- to Rs. 50/-.

**Share under promoter quota**

3987. SHRI SUNIL BASU RAY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have initiated any punitive action against any body who has violated provisions concerning shares under promoters' quota during lock-in period and matters connected therewith; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof with the present position of each case?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) and (b) The provisions concerning shares under promoters' quota relate to primary market transactions attracting SEBI guidelines and regulations. Further SEBI's inspection reports in regard to share registrars forwarded to Department of Company Affairs contained some instances of violation of provisions concerning shares allotted under promoters' quota. The Department of Company Affairs, however, has not taken action in the matter under the Companies Act, 1956, as the same does not fall under any provisions of the Act. Moreover, SEBI proposes to forward particulars of officer/employees of Government, Financial Institutions, Banks etc to their respective employers for appropriate action, if any, under their conduct rules.

**Ceiling on external debts**

3988. SHRI IQBAL SINGH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government imposed a ceiling on external commercial borrowings;

(b) if so, what is the ceiling limit so imposed; and

(c) the steps being taken to reduce country's dependence on external borrowings?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government have decided to have an internal ceiling on external commercial borrowings of about Rs. 7500 Crores (US $ 2.5 Billion) per year subject to review from time to time.

(c) The stratgies to reduce dependence on external borrowings include export promotion, improved earnings through tourism and internal ceilings on external commercial borrowings.

**सोने और चांदी का आयात**

3989. श्री शान्ति त्यागी: क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि सरकार सोने और चांदी का आयात करने का विचार रखती है; यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(ख) उसके क्या कारण हैं?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री तथा संसदीय कार्य मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (डा० अबरार अहमद): (क) जी, नहीं।

(ख) प्रश्न उत्पन्न नहीं होता।